



Claim Amendments

Deletions Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A tool for removing a hinge pin from the rest of a hinge when the hinge pin includes a hinge pin shaft with a predetermined hinge pin shaft diameter measuring on the order of approximately 0.28 inches and a hinge pin head with a predetermined hinge pin head diameter measuring on the order of approximately 0.5 inches ~~[[is larger than the hinge pin shaft diameter]]~~, the tool comprising:

an elongated member having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;

a handle on the proximal end portion of the elongated member for a user to grasp in a hand of the user; and

a forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member for the user to wedge between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge for purposes of facilitating hinge pin removal;

wherein the handle, the elongated member, and the distal end portion of the elongated member extend along a central axis of elongation;

wherein the forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member includes spaced apart first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs that define a channel having a width between the first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs that is larger than ~~[[the]]~~ said predetermined hinge pin shaft diameter and smaller than ~~[[the]]~~ said predetermined hinge pin head diameter in

order to enable the channel to receive the hinge pin shaft as the user wedges the first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge [[.]] ;

wherein the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a first beveled surface that is beveled toward the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong;

wherein the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a second beveled surface that is beveled toward the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong;

wherein the elongated member includes a third beveled surface facing away from the proximal end portion of the elongated member, said third beveled surface extending intermediate the first and second beveled surfaces transversely to the central axis of elongation; and

wherein the width of the channel increases with increased distance along the central axis of elongation from the proximal end portion of the elongated member toward the distal end portion of the elongated member.

Claim 2. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) A tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated member is composed of metal.

Claim 4. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 5. (Original) A tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the channel has a length that is about three-eighths of an inch long.

Claim 6. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 7. (Newly Presented) A tool for removing a hinge pin from the rest of a hinge when the hinge pin includes a hinge pin shaft and a hinge pin head, the tool comprising:

- an elongated member having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;

- a handle on the proximal end portion of the elongated member for a user to grasp in a hand of the user; and

- a forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member for the user to wedge between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge for purposes of facilitating hinge pin removal;

- wherein the handle, the elongated member, and the distal end portion of the elongated member extend along a central axis of elongation;

- wherein the forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member includes spaced apart first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs that define a channel for receiving the hinge pin shaft as the user wedges the first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge;

- wherein the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a first beveled surface that is beveled toward the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong;

- wherein the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a second beveled surface that is beveled toward the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong; and

- wherein the width of the channel increases with increased distance along the central axis of elongation from the proximal end portion of the elongated member toward the distal end portion of the elongated member.

Claim 8. (Newly Presented) A tool for removing a hinge pin from the rest of a hinge when the hinge pin includes a hinge pin shaft and a hinge pin head, the tool comprising:

an elongated member having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;

a handle on the proximal end portion of the elongated member for a user to grasp in a hand of the user; and

a forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member for the user to wedge between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge for purposes of facilitating hinge pin removal;

wherein the forked tip on the distal end portion of the elongated member includes spaced apart first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs that define a channel for receiving the hinge pin shaft as the user wedges the first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs between the hinge pin head and the rest of the hinge;

wherein the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a first beveled surface that is beveled toward the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong;

wherein the second hinge-pin-dislodging tong includes a second beveled surface that is beveled toward the first hinge-pin-dislodging tong;

wherein the width of the channel increases with increased distance along the central axis of elongation from the proximal end portion of the elongated member toward the distal end portion of the elongated member; and

wherein the handle, the elongated member, and the distal end portion of the elongated member extend along a central axis of elongation without the first and second hinge-pin-dislodging tongs extending away from the central axis of elongation.